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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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Austria

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b. Gendarmerie: Recent press publicity originating in Linz indicates that gendarmerie forces in the US Zone have been penetrated to some extent by the KPOe (Austrian Communist Party). The effectiveness of this penetration cannot be estimated, but it is believed that security forces in the provinces are relatively clean.

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2. Status of the Werkschutz program.

As of 1 October 1952, total strength of the Werkschutz was estimated at 3,000 men. Werkschutz personnel are armed with an assortment of German model 98 carbines, parabellum and P-38 pistols, MP-38 and MP-38 and MP-40 machine pistols and some

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Russian and Czech weapons. Personnel is concentrated in the Soviet-controlled industrial installations, primarily in Zistersdorf, Lobau and other oil areas. Personnel is being kept in the age group below 30 years. There is no indication of the Werkschutz being prepared to undertake military duties at the platoon or company level.

3. FOeJ capabilities.

FOeJ (Freie Oesterreichische Jugend) activists are capable of extensive nuisance activities but have no known capabilities as a military force. There is no indication that weapons have been issued to FOeJ members or that they are receiving military training.

4. KPOe strength.

It is anticipated that the KPOe might gain additional votes in the new elections to be held in February 1953, if the party campaign is conducted under the cover of a "Einheitsliste" or similar left-bloc tactics. Such a campaign may attract a number of "fringe" votes from the left wings of other parties. The recent railroad shop steward elections showed a 4.3% gain for the KPOe as opposed to a 25X1 7% loss for the SPOe (Austrian Socialist Party).

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